

Prior law provided that the officers of every municipality governed by the provisions of the Lawrason Act (mayor-board of aldermen form of government) shall be a mayor, alderman, a chief of police, a tax collector, a clerk, and a street commissioner. Generally provided for election, at large, of the police chief. Provided for appointment of a police chief in certain specified municipalities.

Prior law alternatively provided that the office of police chief shall be filled by mayoral appointment with approval of the board of aldermen if a majority of the municipal electors approve the change. Provided for an election on the question only upon a petition directed to the board of aldermen and signed by at least 25% of such electors.

New law provides an exception for the police chief in Duson. Provides that such police chief shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen by majority vote. Provides for initial appointment upon expiration of the current term or other vacancy if there is an elected chief in office on the effective date of new law; provides for immediate appointment if not. Provides that the police chief's term shall be concurrent with that of the mayor and aldermen.

New law provides that the board of aldermen, upon recommendation of the mayor, shall establish the salary of the office and shall, by ordinance, establish the duties, responsibilities, and qualifications of the office and that the chief shall report directly to the mayor.

New law provides that the chief of police of the town of Duson shall have two years of full time law enforcement experience and shall successfully complete a certified training program approved by the Council on Peace Officers Standards and Training. In addition the chief shall successfully pass a council approved comprehensive examination within one calendar year from the date of initial employment as chief of police.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:381(C)(29))